

JAN -4 1922

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HIS BACK AGAINST THE WALL ✓

Photoplay in five reels ✓

✓ Story by John Frederick ✓

Directed by Rowland V. Lee ✓

Scenario by Julien Josephson ✓

✓ Author of the photoplay (under Sec. 62) ✓
Goldwyn Pictures Corporation of the U. S.

Holden
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The life of Jeremy Dice is just one stitch after another. The diminutive Jeremy is employed in a tailor shop owned by the corpulent, aggressive Foutch. The shop is located in the heart of the East Side, New York. Jeremy is a natural born coward and he stands in mortal fear of his boss. One day a customer enters and Jeremy is commanded to "mend them pants." He is lost in dreams and neglects his work. He is visualizing the dashing figure he will cut at the Stepper's ball which is to be held that night.

Dorothy Miller enters. Jeremy is her steady this season because he is a snappy dancer. They commence to talk about the ball and Jeremy tells her he will knock them dead when he wears the dress suit which he has designed himself. The customer hollers for his pants and Foutch bellows at Jeremy again--"Mend them pants." Dorothy remarks that her old steady Jimmy Boyle would not stand for this verbal abuse--he would throw that big stiff through the window. Jeremy tries to camouflage his timidity by telling her he would do the same thing if he were not afraid of losing his job. Again Foutch bellows and Jeremy hastens to repair the pants as Dorothy departs.

The Stepper's ball is a huge success. Jeremy makes a hit in his bizarre designed dress suit. Foutch is present and he proudly calls attention of nearby guests to the fact that the suit was made in his shop. A dancing contest begins. A silver cup is to be awarded to the most graceful and original couple. Jeremy and Dorothy are acclaimed the best couple on the floor and the cup is presented to them by the master of ceremonies. Foutch basks in Jeremy's reflected glory.

Just as Jeremy is handed the cup Jimmy Boyle enters. Jimmy is just back from the kerosene circuit where he has been showing in a refined boxing act. His eyes glare as he glimpses Dorothy who is standing near Jeremy. Jimmy advances takes Dorothy by the arm and then pulls the silver cup out of Jeremy's hand. The frightened Jeremy feebly protests but is speedily quelled when the pugnacious Jimmy asks him what is he going to do about it.

Jeremy's cowardice is apparent to all and he becomes the subject of much ridicule. Foutch feels that his prestige has been lowered and he walks over to Jeremy and fires him; he is not going to have a low-down quitter work for him. The laughter and jeers of the other guests is too much for Jeremy and he beats a hasty retreat out into the night.

Jeremy had read that men went west to live down their pasts. When his money gave out he continued his western journey by riding on freight trains. He is seated on the inside of an empty car. Two other hoboes clamber aboard and rob Jeremy of his few remaining dollars. They beat it when they observe a brakeman coming. The brakie offers to let Jeremy ride if he will come thru with a couple of bucks. Jeremy hastens to comply but soon discovers he has been robbed. The brakie scoffs and is incredulous. The train is passing thru the desert country and he intimates that Jeremy will have to come across or go off. Jeremy becomes panicky and in his despair attempts to grab the brakeman. The other believing he is about to be attacked hurls Jeremy off the moving train.

He finally picks himself up and for hours he staggered thru the lonely desert, seeking food and shelter. The howl of a stray coyote sends terror to his soul. Once he stumbles and falls.

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The bleached bones from a skull of a human skeleton grin up at him grotesque in the sun light. Jeremy springs to his ~~fast~~ feet utterly terrified. Toward dusk he reaches a dilapidated and abandoned shack. There is no food or drink within but it offers shelter to the tired Jeremy. He climbs the rickety ladder and lies down on a pile of straw to rest.

Night comes. A stray cat comes thru the small window. Its green eyes shine thru the darkness at Jeremy's feet. He is awakened as two rough looking individuals ride up to the shack. The two men have just robbed a train, they are Lew Shaler and Arizona Pete. One of them carries the canvas sack containing the stolen money. Jeremy attempts to rise and leave by the upstairs window but the green eyes of the cat shining thru the darkness terrify him and he sits huddled up in a heap--not knowing what to do.

Shaler and Pete quarrel over the division of the loot. They commence to fight all about the shack--each man gripping the other's gun hand. Pete has the best of the encounter until Shaler frees himself and drawing another gun from under his arm pit he shoots Pete and the other crumples to the floor. The cat comes close to Jeremy and licks his hand. The startled Jeremy squeals and attracts Shaler's attention. He raises the gun and prepares to shoot Jeremy. With his dying effort Pete reaches the gun on the floor and shoots Shaler dead.

Assured that both men are dead Jeremy descends the ladder and pauses in momentary uncertainty. The gun attracts his eyes--the one Pete has just used. Gingerly he picks it up. It goes off and he is almost frightened out of his senses. The sheriff and a posse ride up and then cautiously surround the house. Gun in hand Lawrence--the sheriff--enters. He commands Jeremy to throw up his hands. Terror makes the other incapable of lifting his hands--he folds them nervously across the pit of his stomach--the gun still gripped in his nerveless fingers.

Lawrence soon takes in the situation--he observes the dead bandits and the sack of money. He grabs the revolver from Jeremy's unresisting hands. A quick examination convinces the sheriff that only two shots have been fired. The dead bandits bear mute testimony to X Jeremy's unerring aim. He eyes the other with a new admiration and respect. The posse are thunder struck. This mild looking man must be a renowned gun fighter. Jeremy is stunned and tries to explain but all his efforts are misconstrued. The men think he is too modest and they insist on lionizing him. Jeremy is weak and unstrung. The sheriff helps him up on a horse adding to our hero's fears for he is mortally afraid. This rather endears him to the posse as it shows him in a more human light.

The posse heads for Divide--the nearest town. Jeremy is about all in and the sheriff bids one of the men ride in ahead and have a doctor ready. The man arrives and he shout Jeremy's exploit all over the ~~town~~ town. When Jeremy and his retinue arrived he was already hailed a hero by the assembled populace. Among the assembled people is Rancher Welling and his beautiful daughter Mary. Welling's only son has been killed some months ago by Shaler. The ~~rancher~~ rancher's ~~gratitude~~ gratitude prompts him to have Jeremy conveyed to his ranch until he can convalesce.

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Jeremy comes back to consciousness in a strange surroundings. He tries to piece things together. Mary is at his side soothing his brow. She tells him there is nothing they wouldn't do for him and Mrs. Welling assures him that he is to consider himself as one of the family. Within a few days Jeremy is able to sit up and he commenced to fall in love with his fair nurse Mary.

His conscience commenced to bother him. He wanted to be honest and tell her he was a false hero but he feared she would despise him. Every time he looked in her eyes he felt like a thief. The sheriff and some town officials ride up to the ranch. Jeremy fears that they have found him out, that they are coming to arrest him. He takes refuge in the house. Welling finally induces him to come downstairs. The sheriff has a testimonial and a reward which he attempts to give Jeremy. The latter's conscience will not permit him to accept the gift and he refuses it excitedly. Mary attributes his hysteria to his illness and she finally induces the sheriff and the others to depart-taking their offering with them.

Jeremy is able to be about and to try and uphold the reputation which has been thrust on him he determines to learn how to handle and shoot a gun. He goes outdoors and practices shooting at an empty can. His marksmanship is very poor. The doctor and Bronc Lewis ride by. The surgeon points out Jeremy as the man who has slain the two bandits. Lewis is Shaler's cousin and he eyes Jeremy interestedly. Observing his poor marksmanship he is inclined to think Jeremy a fake. He determines to show Jeremy some real shooting. With apparent ease he shoots holes in the can-never missing a shot.

Bronc Lewis rides into Divide and he loses little time in stating that in his opinion Jeremy is a ~~false~~ fraud. The latter has many staunch defenders, especially ~~Lawrence~~ Lawrence the sheriff. The sheriff tells Bronc he would not say those things to Jeremy's face. Bronc sneers and tells him to bring on his hero--he will wait there until six o'clock--but he is sure Jeremy will not have guts enough to come.

Jeremy is alone in his room-seated tailor-fashion. He is practicing drawing his gun from the holster and he has attained a fair degree of proficiency. Mary comes into the room and sees him. She is alarmed lest Jeremy go back to his old life with all its dangers. Jeremy tells her he has never been a bad man but he must be ready to face eventualities. He pleads with her to understand.

The sheriff comes into the room as Jeremy wheels gun in hand. Lawrence is scared for the moment and then tells the other he is glad to see he is in such good practice. He recounts Bronc's defy which of course can only have one ending. Jeremy is alarmed and tries to evade the issue. He suggests that the sheriff jail Bronc or do something. The other considers this a good joke. He does not dream that Jeremy is frightened but attributes the other's actions to his sense of humor. He leaves Jeremy telling him he will ride in and tell Bronc that Jeremy is on his way.

Alone Jeremy realizes that he has reached the parting of the ways. He writes a note to Mary in which he confesses everything--he begs her to forgive and forget him. Mary enters and Jeremy is flustered and he sticks the note in his pocket. He tells Mary he has to ride to Divide to see a man on business. She is suspicious and wants to know if he is going to fight someone. She intimates her concern when she remarks that she doesn't

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know what she would do if anything happened to him. Restraining his emotions with difficulty Jeremy manages to tear himself away and he is soon riding away.

In Divide Bronc Lewis is still deriding Jeremy and stating his belief that the other will never show up. Bronc has his partisans and many wagers are made on Jeremy's appearance and the result of the fight if he does come to town. Lawrence returns and tells Bronc Jeremy is headed for Divide. The other is still skeptical.

Mary learns of Jeremy's ride to Divide and his purpose in going there. She hastily mounts her horse and gallops furiously away, breathing a prayer that she may arrive in time to stop the encounter.

Jeremy reaches the cross roads. One road leads to safety--the other to Bronc Lewis and almost certain death. Jeremy pauses in indecision. Then he spurs his horse and ~~gix~~ gallops forward.

It is two minutes to six and the arrogant Bronc commences to brag and boast at Jeremy's failure to arrive. Jeremy's partisans and the sheriff are uneasy--they attempt to offer excuses but they are laughed to scorn.

Jeremy appears at a nearby corner. He has dismounted and he peers cautiously toward Bronc and the assembled crowd. His horse shies and pulls Jeremy into view. The men scatter and Bronc awaits Jeremy's approach--with supreme confidence. Jeremy presents a sorry figure as he shambles forward--his ~~jump~~ knees shaking. To conceal his nervousness he resorts to the old trick of folding his arms against the pit of his stomach. Bronc laughs in disdain and even Jeremy's sympathisers look anxious; their ~~sympathiser~~ champion is apparently about to disgrace them. Kx

Jeremy advances until he is within striking distance of Bronc. The man sneers and then makes a disparaging remark about Mary. Like a flash Jeremy undergoes a remarkable transition. His whole being changes--his eyes flash fire--he springs forward and deliberately slaps Bronc in the face. Both guns flash as one and Bronc crumples down with a bullet in his neck. The admiring plaudits of the men fall on deaf ears. Jeremy vaults into his saddle and is soon speeding back to Mary. He meets her as she comes riding in. She dismounts and they embrace. She makes him promise that he will never fight again--he does as he gathers her close.

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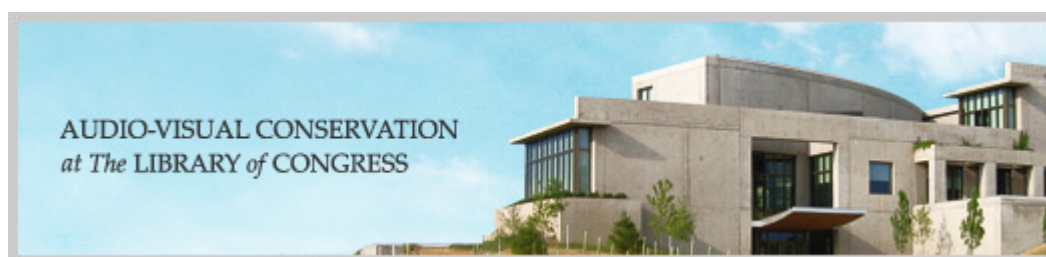
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